

Serial: **161665**

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF MISSISSIPPI

No.89-R-99037-SCT

IN RE: MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON CHILDREN'S JUSTICE

ORDER

Before this Court en banc is the matter of children's justice in the State of Mississippi. Currently this Court receives approximately four hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$450,000.00) annually, under the federal Court Improvement Plan Grant, earmarked for the improvement of Mississippi's Youth Court system. A requirement for the receipt of the Court Improvement Plan Grant funds is that an advisory group be utilized to assist in the identification of areas needing improvement in the children's justice arena, as well as making recommendations for improvement of those areas and the monitoring of the implementation of the recommended reforms.

Previously, this Court, en banc, entered the Order of April 26, 2006 in cause number 2006-AD-00001-SCT, establishing the Commission on Children's Justice charged with developing a statewide comprehensive approach to improving the child welfare system; coordinating the three branches of government in assessing the impact of government actions on children who are abused or neglected; and recommending changes to improve children's safety, strengthen and support families, and restore public trust and confidence in the child welfare system. The terms of service of the original members of the Commission on Children's Justice were not specified by the April 26, 2006 Order, but each member has

served diligently since the Commission's creation. Having carefully considered the matter, the Court finds that it should reestablish and reconstitute the membership of the Commission on Children's Justice.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. The Court hereby relieves and discharges the members of the Commission on Children's Justice from the duties conferred upon them by the Order of April 26, 2006, entered in cause number 2006-AD-00001-SCT, with the sincere appreciation of the Court for their service.

2. The Court hereby re-establishes and reconstitutes the Commission on Children's Justice charged with developing a statewide comprehensive approach to improving the child welfare system; coordinating the three branches of government in assessing the impact of government actions on children who are abused or neglected; and recommending changes to improve children's safety, strengthen and support families, and promote public trust and confidence in the child welfare system.

3. The following are appointed as members of the Commission:

Randy G. Pierce, Justice of the Supreme Court of Mississippi,

Thomas Broome, County Court Judge for Rankin County,

Virginia Carlton, Judge of the Court of Appeals,

Robert Clarke, County Court Referee for Holmes County Youth Court,

Jacqueline Dedeaux, Division of Youth Services, Mississippi Department of Human Services,

Carolyn Hartfield, Principal, Greene County Alternative School,

Wayne Rodolfich, Superintendent, Pascagoula Public School District,

William (Bill) Charlton, Mississippi Judicial College,

Ray Sims, Director, Office of Justice Programs, Public Safety Planning, Department of Public Safety,

Patti Marshall, Attorney General's Office,

Chris Cherney, Chief Executive Officer, Mississippi Children's Home Services,

Sandra Parks, Director, Children's Division, Mississippi Department of Mental Health,

Lori Woodruff, Deputy Administrator for the Division of Family and Children's Services, Mississippi Department of Human Services,

Laurie Johnson, CASA Mississippi,

Kathy Pittman, Director, Division of Youth Services, Mississippi Department of Human Services,

Kristi Plotner, Mississippi Division of Medicaid,

Toni Kersh, Bureau Director, Compulsory School Attendance Enforcement, Department of Education,

Pam Castle, Youth Court Prosecutor, Forrest County,

Leanne Lemmons, Oxford CAC, Family Crisis Services, Northwest Mississippi,

Joe Haynes, Jobs for Mississippi Graduates,

Stewart Rutledge, State Advisory Group (SAG) Chairman,

Earle Banks, Representative, Mississippi State Legislature, Chair-Juvenile Justice,

Cecil Brown, Representative, Mississippi State Legislature, Chair-Education, and

David Blount, Senator, Mississippi State Legislature, Vice Chair-Drug Policy; Vice-Chair- Fees, Salaries and Administration.

